EPA Plans Asbestos Removal

From Homes in Libby, Mont.

By SUSAN WARREN

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NTT DoCoMo	
	In an unusual move, the Environmen-
0	tal Protection Agency says it will rip out
Omogom Grand	asbestos-tainted insulation from hun-
Omitteelin Stoup	dreds of homes in Libby, Mont., because
Oracle C3	 if poses a health hazard to residents.
Orange C10	The EPA is taking the nosition in
Otis A14	Libby because aspestos contamination is
	Spread widely throughout the fown
۵.	Many townspeople worked in the vermic-
Palm. 86	ulite mine there owned by W.R. Grace

Photon Dynamics
Philips Electronics R14
Philip Morris
Pfizer C3
PetCo Animal Supplies CE
Peregine Systems C1
PepsiCo B4,B6
Pegaso A13
PBHG Emerging Growth C19
Paxson Communications B:
Palm8(

cumulative exposure that we're trying to reduce anything that will make things

"These people have just had such

exposure as possible.

worse for them," said Jack McGraw, EPA deputy administrator of Region 8, which Grace and other manufacturers used vermiculite, a mineral, to make insula-

includes Montana.

- 11
Procter & Gamble B6,R1
Pininfarina R1
Photon Dynamics B
Philips Electronics R1
7 dillow dilli -

Quinton Cardiology SystemsRaytheonRealNamesRegal Entertainment GroupReliant Resources.	

lions of homes around the country that cials said the EPA is conducting new studies to determine whether the insulation

contain similar insulation. Agency offi

Despite the Libby decision, the EPA said such a step isn't necessary for mil

tion from the 1930s through the 1970s.

7	
7 6	Sallie Mae C12
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a statement.

By SUSAN WARREN	The EPA estimated asbestos
	tion could be in walls and attice
In an unusual move, the Environmen-	many as 30 million homes through
tal Protection Agency says it will rip out	country. The agency has long sa
asbestos-tainted insulation from hun-	harmless unless it is disturbed
dreds of homes in Libby, Mont., because	Could release ashestos fibers into
it poses a health hazard to residents.	When inhaled ashestos can caus
The EPA is taking the position in	disease and an especially deadly
Libby because asbestos contamination is	cancer.

Agency officials took a closer look at the issue after they began an emergency cleanup of Libby in 1999. A December report by an EPA toxicologist labeled the bance of the insulation, such as changing a light bulb, could release asbestos into insulation an "imminent and substantial endangerment to public health." Mr. McGraw said:even the slightest distur-

> supplement in residential gardens and related illnesses in Libby, the EPA said it wants to eliminate as many sources of

schoolyards. With a high rate of asbestos-Co., and discards were used as a soil

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The an

cut attorne surer trying tion amid e

court action

Norris.

homes.

posed by their home insulation. Grace ers' lawsuit in Libby over the danger filed for bankruptcy protection last year, citing a flood of asbestos litigation.

poses a widespread hazard.

Libby, EPA continues to believe that the

"For homes outside

held advice:

best strategy for asbestos-containing ma-

terials in buildings is to leave it in place, unless removal is necessary to prevent disturbance during renovations," it said

The company said the EPA's didn' to conclude the insulation is dangerous.

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people may 101(k) plan

NEW BF "appearanc revote on it: able," Stanl

> Grace, based in Columbia, Md., has conducted its own studies and disputes tains only minuscule traces of asbestos, far below EPA hazard levels. "Zonolite insulation is safe. We think it's safe in Libby, and we think it's safe everywhere else," said Grace Chief Executive Paul the danger, saying the insulation con-

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Stanley

shareholder

ardous-site cleanup law hasn't previously applied to consumer products in private Environmental experts say the haz-

can avoid pa

Grace already is facing a homeown-

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declare a public health emergency in there isn't scientific or medical evidence abby, showing that it, too, has concluded

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